

# From Revolution ... to Revitalization



Digging Up History

# Every Object Has a Story to Tell... And a Lesson to Teach

Archaeology has been an ongoing practice at Mount Vernon for decades because it provides unique access to the past. Under the earth, we find treasures in many forms and from various eras.

The Mansion Revitalization Project invited us to return to what lies beneath to see if we could uncover some new knowledge about the past while strengthening the Mansion for the future.



One particularly exciting discovery was a small piece of domino likely from the early 19th century. This is the first domino fragment found in an archaeological excavation; a nearly complete domino was found in the 1930s during construction work. It is common practice at Mount Vernon to do archaeology before breaking any ground.

The military connection at Mount Vernon remains strong! During excavations at the north end of the Mansion, a second War of 1812-era U.S. Army Artillery Corps button was recovered. This button was among the first series of U.S. military regalia to feature an American eagle.

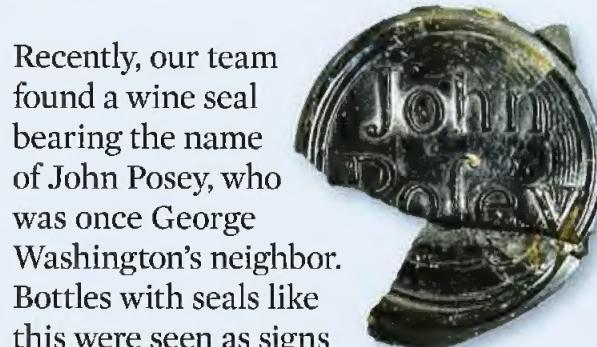


## DID YOU KNOW?

The objects we unearth go to the lab for further analysis.

Recently, lab analysts cataloged artifacts from four 10'x10' units found in the excavations north of the Mansion. Over 10,000 items were analyzed and cataloged!

Recently, our team found a wine seal bearing the name of John Posey, who was once George Washington's neighbor. Bottles with seals like this were seen as signs of gentility, wealth, and individuality among the planter class. The bottle with this seal may have been brought to Mount Vernon by Posey for a social event or it may have arrived after Washington purchased property from Posey in 1769.



In the grove north of the Mansion, archaeologists have uncovered generations of broken dishware from the Washingtons' table.

# Underground Innovation

George Washington was incredibly innovative and was always searching for effective solutions for complex problems. Recently, the archaeology team uncovered the impressive drainage system that Washington designed while he lived in the Mansion. This system carried rainwater from the north end of the Mansion, under the cellar and southward toward the dung repository, effectively enhancing his composting endeavors.



## THANK YOU!

Thanks to generous supporters, like you, we're taking the Mansion from revolution to revitalization! The Mansion Revitalization project has begun with the expansion of the utility bunker.

Now that the first phases of archaeology and excavation are complete, we can begin to install the new HVAC system, which will efficiently manage the environment based on the needs of each room in the Mansion and—for the first time in history—adequately control the climate of the cellar!



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